THE
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Angler;
or
Angling
Improved.
Sold by Rich: Marriott in S.t Dunstans Church yard.
Vaughan sculp.

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BEING

A general Diſcourſe of Angling;

Imparting many of the apteſt wayes and choiceſt Experiments for the taking of moſt ſorts of Fiſh in Pond or River.

Bodleian Library

LONDON:
Printed for *Richard Marriot*, and are to be ſold at his Shop in St. *Dunſtans* Church-yard, *Fleet-ſtreet*. 1662.

To the Reader.

DElights and Pleasure are so fast rivetted and firmly rooted in the heart of Man, that I suppose there is none so morose or melancholly, that will not onely pretend to, but plead for an Interest in the same, most being so much enamoured therewith, that they judge that life but a living death, which is wholly deprived or abridged of all pleasure, and many pursue the same with so much eagerness and importunity, (as though they had been born for no other end) as that they not only consume their most precious

time; but also totally ruine their Estates thereby: for in this loose and licentious Age, when profuse Prodigality passes for the Characteristical mark of true Generosity, and Frugality (I mean not Niggardliness) is branded with the ignominious blot of Baseness. I expect not that this undervalued Subject (though it propound delight at an easie rate) will meet with any other entertainment than neglect, if not contempt, it being an art which few take pleasure in, nothing passing for noble or delightful which is not costly; as though men could not gratifie their senses, but with the

consumption of their fortunes. *Hawking* and *Hunting* have had their excellencies celebrated with large *Encomiums* by divers pens, and although I intend not any undervaluing of those noble Recreations, so much famed in all Ages and by all degrees, yet I must needs affirm, that they fall not within the compass of every ones ability to pursue, being as it were only entailed on great Persons and vast estates, for if meaner Fortunes seek to enjoy them, *Aesops* Fable often proves a true story, and these birds of prey not seldom quarrey upon their masters. Besides, those Recreations are more

subject to choller and passion, by how much those creatures exceed a Hook or Line in worth: And indeed in those exercises our pleasure depends much upon the will and humor of a fullen Cur or Ass, (as I have heard their own passions phrase them) which also require much attendance, care and skill to keep her serviceable to our ends. Further, their delights are often prejudicial to the Husbandman in his corn, grass and fences, but in this pleasant and harmless Art of Angling a man hath none to quarrel with but himself, and we are usually so entirely our own friends, as not

to retain an irreconcileable hatred against our selves, but can in short time easily compose the enmity; and besides our selves none are offended, none endamaged; and this Recreation falleth within the capacity of the lowest fortune to compass, affording also profit as well as pleasure, in following of which exercise a man may imploy his thoughts in the noblest studies, almost as freely as in his Closset.

The minds of Anglers being usually more calm and composed than many others, especially Hunters and Falconers, who too frequently lose their delight in their passion, and

rod often bring home more of melancholly, and discontent than satisfaction in their thoughts: but the Angler, when he hath the worst success, loseth but a hook or line, or perhaps (what he never possessed) a fish; and suppose he take nothing, yet he enjoyeth a delightful walk by pleasant rivers in sweet pastures, amongst odoriferous flowers, well gratifie his senses and delight his mind, which contentments induce many (who affect not angling) to chuse those places of pleasure for their Summers recreation and health.

But peradventure some may alleage that this Art is mean,

melancholly and insipid: I suppose the old Answer, *De gustibus non est disputandum*, will hold as firmly in Recreations as Palats, many have supposed Angling void of delight, having never tryed it, yet have afterwards experimented it so full of content, that they have quitted all other Recreations (at least in its season) to pursue it, and I do perswade my self, that whosoever shall associate himself with some honest expert Angler, who will freely and candidly communicate his skill unto him, will in short time be convinced, that *Ars non habet inimicum nisi ignorantem*; and the more any experiment

periment its harmless delight, (not subject to passion or expence) probably he will be induc'd to relinquish those pleasures which are obnoxious to choller or contention (which so discompose the thoughts, that nothing during that unsettlement can relish or delight the mind) to pursue that recreation which composeth the Soul to that calmness and serenity, which gives a man the fullest possession and fruition of himself and all his enjoyments; this clearness and equanimity of Spirit being a matter of so high a concern and value in the judgments of many profound Philoso-

phers,

phers, as any one may see that will bestow the pains to read, *De tranquillitate animi*, and *Petrarch*, *De utriusque fortunæ statu*: Certainly he that lives *Sibi & Deo*, leads the most happy life; and if this Art do not dispose and encline the mind of man to a quiet, calm sedateneſſe, I am confident it doth not (as many other delights) cast blocks and rubs before him to make his way more difficult and leſſe pleasant; The cheapneſſe of the recreation abates not its pleasure, but with rational persons heightens it; and if it be delightful the charge of Melancholly falls upon that score,

and

and if Example (which is the best proof) may sway any thing, I know no sort of men lesse subject to Melancholy than Anglers; many have cast off other Recreations and imbraced it, but I never knew any Angler wholly cast off (though occasions might interrupt) their affections to their beloved Recreation; and if this Art may prove a *Noble brave rest* to thy mind, it will be satisfaction to his, who is thy well-wishing Friend.

To

To his ingenious Friend the Author
On his
Angling Improv'd.

Honoured Sir,

THough I never (to my knowledge) had the happiness to see your face, yet accidentally coming to a view of this Discourse before it went to the Press; I held my self obliged in point of gratitude for the great advantage I received thereby, to tender you my particular acknowledgment, especially having been for thirty years past, not onely a lover but a practicer of that innocent Recreation, wherein by your judicious precepts I find my self fitted for a higher Form; which expression I take the boldness to use, because I have read and practiced by many Books of this kind, formerly made publick; from which (although I received

much

much advantage to the practick; yet (without prejudice to their worthy Authors) I could never find in them that height of judgement *and* reason, *which you have manifested in this* (*as I may call it*) Epitome of Angling, *since my reading whereof I cannot look upon some notes of my own gathering, but methinks I see* puerilia tractare. *But lest I should be thought to go about to magnifie my own judgment, in giving yours (for which a portion of it due, I humbly take leave with no more ambition than to kiss your hand, and to be accounted*

Your humble and
thankful Servant,

J. Wa

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Angling Improv'd.

Profit and Pleasure united.

OR, the attaining of The In-
troduction
to the en-
suing Di-
course.

B ducing

ducing of such effects, as are in our
power, and as
it may
tial be
stand
fixed
fected: So in Angling, the end being Recreation, which consisteth in drawing the fish to bait, that we may take them, if you want tools, though you have baits, or baits though you have tackle, yet you have no part of pleasure by either of these singly: Nay, if you have both, yet want skill to use them, all the rest is to little purpose. I shall therefore first begin with your tools, and so proceed in order with the rest.

provide your self with stocks in hops: you need not be so exactly curious for your stocks as the hops, though I wish you to chuse the best for your growth: you can get stocks, but let your hops be the ones that are rather grown from your own get, straight and smooth, and (if for the ground-rod) near to be full two yards long, (the reason for that length shall be given particularly) and if for the hills of what length you please, because you must either chuse them to fit the stocks, or the stocks fit them in such exact proportion, neither do they need to be so very much bigger grown towards the root, but your rod be not much unlikely proportionable, (as well as slender) it will neither cast well, strike readily, nor play and bestir nimbly, which will very much endanger your hand to [illegible] your hops and stocks, for

all shuft be gathered in one season) if any of them be crooked, bind them all together, and they will keep one another streight; or lay them on some even boarded floor, with a weight on the crooked parts, or else bind them close to some streight staffe or pole; but before you do this you must bathe them all, save the very top, in a gentle fire.

The use of the Reed or Cane.

For the ground angle, I prefer the Cane or Reed before all other, both for its length and lightness, and whereas some object against its colour and stiffness, I answer, both these inconveniencies are easily remedyed, the colour by covering it with thin Leather or Parchment, and those dyed into what colour you please, or you may colour the Cane it self, as you see daily done by those that sell them in London, especially if you scrape off the shining yellow out side, but that

weakneth the Rod; the stiffnesse of the Cane is helped by the length and strength of the top, which I would wish to be very much taper-grown, and of the full length I spoke of before, and so it will kill a very good fish without over straining the Cane, which will (as you may observe) yield and bend a little, neither would I advise any to use a Reed that will not receive a top of the forementioned length. Such who most commend the Hazel-rod (which I also value and praise but for different reasons) above the Cane, do it because, say they, the slender Rod saveth the line, but my opinion is, that the equal bending of the Rod chiefly (next to the skill of the Angler) saveth the line, and the slenderness I conceive principally serveth to make the fly-rod long and light, easie to be managed with one hand, and cast-

ash the fly for which are to me these considerations chiefly to be regarded in a fly-rod; for if you observe the slender part of the Rod (if strained) shoots forth in length as if it were part of the line, so that the whole force or strength of the fish is born or sustained by the thicker part of the Rod, which is no stronger then the stronger end of such a top as I did before direct for the ground-rod, and you may prove what I say to be true, if you hang a weight at the top of the fly-rod, which you shall see ply and bend (in the slender and thick part) more or less as the weight is heavy or light. Having made this digression for the Case, I return to the making up of the top, of which at the upper or small end, I would have you to cut off about two foot or three quarters of a yard at most, and then piece neatly to the thick remaining part a small

small flaw of black-thorn or crab-tree (gathered in the season as before) fitted in a most exact proportion to the strength of the Hazel, and then cut off a small part of the slender end of the Black-thorn or Crab-tree, and lengthen out the same with a small piece of whale-bone, made round, smooth and even; all which will make your Rod to be very long, gentle, and not so apt to break or stand, as the Hazel, both which are great inconveniencies, especially breaking, which will force you from your sport, to amend your top.

2. To teach the way or manner how to make a line, were time lost, it being so easie and ordinary; yet to make the line well handsome, and to twist the hair even and neat, makes the line strong: For if one hair be long and another short, the short one

The making the line.

receiveth no strength from the long one, and so breaketh, and then the other (as too weak) breaketh also. Therefore you must twist it softly, and the twisting keep them from entangling together, which hindereth their right playing or bedding. Also I do not like the mixing of silk or thred with hair, but if you please, you may (to make the line strong) make it all of Silk, or Thred, or Hair, as strong as you please, and the lower part of the smallest Lace or Vice fringe, which I have proved to be very strong, but will quickly rot in the water, but you may help that in having new and strong to change the rotten when you see cause. (The most usual colour whereof flies are made) I have often seen and gray dun, sorrel in muddy and boggy Rivers, both the other for clear waters. I never could find

said fish turne or wash in other colours, to give them so high praises as some do, yet if any other have much in it, it must yield it to the ripple, dirty green, and if you fancy that you may dye it thus: Take a pottle of Allom water, a large handful of Marigolds, boyl them until a yellow scum arise, then take half a pound of green Copperas, and as much Verdegreece beat them into a fine powder, put those with the hair into the Allom water, set all to cool for twelve houres, then take out the hair and lay it to dry in the Leave a bought hair at both ends of the line, the one to put it to, and the other in your Rod, the other to hang your lowest link upon, to which your hook is fastned, and so you may change your hook so often as you please.

The shape of the Hook.

Let your hooks be long in the shank, and of a compass some what

with inclining to roundness, but the point must stand even and streight, and the bending must be in the shank; for if the shank be streight, the point will hang outward, though when set on it stand right, yet it will after the taking of a few fish cause the hair at the end of the shank to stand bent, and so (by consequence) the point of the hook to lie or hang too much outward, whereas upon the same ground the bending shank will then cause the point of the hook to hang directly upwards.

When you set on your hook, do it with strong but small silk, and lay your hair upon the inside of the hook, for if on the outside the silk will cut and fret it afterwards, and to avoid the fretting of the hair by the hook on the inside, smooth all your hook upon a whetstone, from the inside to the back of the hook three ways.

4. Get

4. Get the best cork you can The store.
without flaws or holes (quills and pens are not able to bear the strong streams) bore the cork through with a small hot iron, then put into it a quill of a fit proportion neither too large to split it, or so small as to slip out, but so as it may stick in very closely, then pare your cork into the form of a pirramide, or small pear, and into what bigness you please, then upon a smooth grindstone, or with a pomice make it compleat, for you cannot pare it so smooth as you may grind it, have corkes of all sizes.

To carry the depth of

5. Get a Musquet or Carbine bullet, make a hole through it, and put in a strong twist, hang this on the end of your hook to try the depth of River or Pond.

To carry your lines or artificial flies.

6. Take so much Parchment as will be about four inches broad, and five long, make the longer end round,

To sharpen the hook that is dulled.

To carry baits and other necessaries.

For worms, caddas.

10. Have a small Pole, made with a loop at the end, like that of your line, but much bigger, to which must be fastned a small net, to land great fish, without which (if you want assistance) you will be in danger to lose them. To land great fish when you want an assistant.

11. Your Pannier cannot be too light: I have seen some made of Oziers, cleft into slender long splinters, and so wrought up, which is very neat, and exceeding light, you must ever carry with you store of Hooks, Lines, Hair, Silk, Thread, Lead, Links, Corks of all sizes, lest (if you lose or break (as is usual) any of them, you be forced to leave your sport, and return for supplies. Your Pannier.

Chap. II. Of the several sorts of Angling, & of the Flies.

As there are many kinds and sorts of Fish, so there are also various and different ways to take them; and therefore before we proceed to speak how to take each kind, we must say something in general of the several wayes of angling, as necessary to the better order of our work.

Several wayes of angling.

Angling therefore may be distinguished either into fishing by day, or (which some commend but the cold and Dews caused me to dis-relish that which impaired my health) by night; and these again are of two sorts, either upon the superficies of the water, or more or less under the surface thereof: of this sort is angling with the ground line, (with lead, but no flote)

shots) for the *Trout*, &c. with lead and those for all sorts of fish, or neat the surface of the water for *Chub*, *Roch*, &c. or with a *Trowle* for the *Pike*, or a *Marrow* for the *Trout*; of which more in due place.

That way of angling upon or above the water, is with *Gentles*, *Pilgarn*, *Caterpillers*, *Cadbait*, or any worm bred on herbs or trees; or with flies natural or artificial, of these last (viz. Flies) shall be our first discourse, as comprising each of the other last named, and as being the most pleasant and delightful part of angling.

But I must here make leave to differ from the opinion of such who assign a certain fly to each Month; whereas I find certain Insects to appear sometimes in one Month, sometimes in another, and generally all flies take much shorter time,

time, except the Stone fly (which some call the May fly) which is bred of the water cricket, which creepeth out of the River, and gets under the stones by the water side, and there turneth to a fly, and lyeth under the stones; the May fly and the reddish fly with white gray wings. Besides the season of the year may much vary the time of their comming in, a forward Spring bringeth them in sooner, and a late Spring the later. For flies being creatures bred of putrefaction, do take life as the heat doth further or suppress the seminal vertue (by which they are generated) unto animation: and therefore all I can say as to time, so that your own observation must be your best instruction, what time that each fly cometh in, will be most acceptable to all fish, of which I shall speak more fully in the next Section, [illegible] also

also I have observed that severall Rivers and Soyles produce several sorts of flies, as the mossy bigg soils have one sort peculiar to them; the clay soil, gravelly and mercurious Godarey and Rivers, and a mellow light soil different from them all, yet some for are common to all these sorts of rivers and soils, but they are few, and also differ somewhat in colour from those bred in another soil.

In general, all sorts of flies are very good in their season, for such fish as will rise at the fly, as Salt, Trout, Umber, Grayling, Bleak, Chevin, Roch, Dace, &c. Though some of these fish do love some flies better than other, except the fish named I know not any sort of fish that will (orderly and freely) rise at the fly, though I have also some delight to angle for Breams and Pike with artificial flies, but I judge the labour lost, and the

What fish rise best at the fly, both natural and artificial.

knowledge a needless curiosity; a thefe fifh being taken much eafier (efpecially the firſt) by other ways. All the forementioned forts of fifh will ſometimes take the fly, much better at the top of the water, and at another time much better a little under the ſuperficies of the water, and in this your own obſervation muſt be your conſtant and daily inſtructor. (for if they will not riſe to the top, or ſhew under) it not being poſſible (in my opinion) to give any certain rule in this particular; alſo the firſt ſorts of fifh firſt named will take the artificial fly, ſo will not the other, except an eyleſs or ſtalkleſs be put on the point of the hook; or ſome other worm for bait (as the fly muſt be) to the hook. You may alſo obſerve (which my own experience taught me) that the fifh ſeven ſifh eſpecially will

How to find what flie the fish at that instant most desire.

When you come first to the River in the morning, with your rod beat upon the bushes or boughs which hang over the water, and by their falling upon the water you will see what sorts of flies are there in greatest numbers; if divers sorts and equal in number, try those, and you will quickly find what they most desire. Sometimes they change their flie (but in one day) twice or thrice in one day, but ordinarily they fasten upon one sort of flie, till they have for some days seen great store of them with a former kind, which commonly when flies first come in, are their own. Directly contrary to Dorsetshire Gallants, who must have the first of every thing, when it is to be got; but fasten the same

kinds

kindly crops, sometimes, commons and chaps: but they multiplie the fish, and cover when plenty, and when that sort grow old and decay, and another comes in plentifully; then they change, as if Nature taught them, that every thing is best in its own proper season, and not to be desirable when not kindly ripe, or worn through long continuance begins to lose its native beauty and goodness.

I shall adde a few cautions and directions in the use of the natural fly, and so proceed.

Directions in using the artificial fly.

When you angle for the chub, keep with the fly, you need not move your fly swiftly, when you see the fish coming towards it, but rather draw one or two foot and slow removes, suffer the fly to glide gently with the stream towards the fish, or if in a standing or very slow water, draw the fly slowly, and (not directly

Chap. III.
Of the artificial Fly.

Of the artificial fly.

HAving given these few Directions concerning the use of the natural fly of all sorts, shewed the time and season of their coming in and out so fast already, and cautioned you in the use of them, I shall proceed to treat of the artificial fly. But here I must premise, that it is much easier to learn how to make a fly, than by any Rules that can possibly be given for that purpose, in regard the Terms of Art, used in most parts of England for flies, and also several sorts of flies are called by different names; some call the fly bred of the worm Caterpillar a Grub-fly, and some a Straw-fly; some call the Caddis fly a May, and some call a sharp fly of a sad golden green colour, with short brown wings a May-fly;

and I see no reason but all flies bred in [illegible] are properly enough called [illegible] flies. [illegible] except some one (that hath skill) [illegible] paint them, [illegible] their [illegible] [illegible] them; [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] and peculiarly [illegible] [illegible] of the variety of Nature and Art, [illegible] that be the flies that are bred and [illegible] each [illegible] the Artificer before directed) I finding [illegible] the fly which the fish [illegible] [illegible] possibly be easy, according [illegible] proportion; and for the better [illegible] direction let him lay the several flies before him. All this premised and considered, let him go [illegible] his fly; which according to my own practice I thus advise:

How to make the artificial fly several ways.

First, I begin to fix on my hook, (placing the hair to be inside of its shank) with such coloured silk as I conceive most proper for the fly, be-

beginning at the end of the hook; and when I come to that place which I conceive most proportionable for the wings, then I place such coloured feathers there, as I apprehend most resemble the wings of the fly, and secure points of the wings towards the head, or else I run the feathers (and those must be short from the Quill or Pen, with part of it still clowing to the feathers) round the hook, and so make them fast, if I turn the feathers round the hook, then I clip away those that are upon the back of the hook, that so (if it be possible) the point of the hook may be turned by the feathers that are on the inside of the hook) to swim upwards, and by this means I conceive the stream will carry your flies wings in the posture of one flying; whereas if you let the points of the wings backwards, towards the bending of the hook, the

friend (if the weather be grandy as they ought) will floud the colour of the wing in the beginning of the book, as I have often found by experience: After I have set on the wing, I go on so farre I judge fit, till I finish all, and then begin to make the body, and the next thing the body of the fly is made of (several ways, if the fly be any intricate colour, then I take a Worsted thread or Mocado end, or both well or fat into a kind of mixed, or worse small flaxen dub mixed, and fine wooll, fur, &c. spinne, and then twist, and the material will hide on it, and then go on to make my fly fmall or large, as I please. If the fly (as most are) be of several colours, and those running in circles round the fly, then I either take two of these threds (winding them first towards the bent of the hook) and so run them round, and fasten all at the wings, and then with the

head,

head, or else I lay upon the hook wooll, for of Hare, Dog, Fox, Bear, Cow, Hog, (which clase as their bodies have a fine fur) and with a silk of the other colour bind the same wooll on (as down, and open often all) Or instead of the silk running thus round the fly, you may pluck the feather from one side of those long feathers which grow above a Cocks or Capons neck or tail, (which some call Wooddy) then run the same round your fly, from head to tail, ever lapping each turn back, but you must be sure to use the feather answerable to the colour you are to imitate in the fly, and this way you may counterfeit those rough wool-like flies, (which some call Woodbeds, because of their wool-like outside, and rings of divers colours) I take them to be Palmer-worms, which the fish much delight in. Let me adde this only, that

then some fies have forked tails, and some have horns, both which you must imitate with a slender hair fastned to the head or tail of your fly, when you fit it on your hooks, and in all things, as length, colour, &c. like the natural fly as possibly you can: The body is made after all the rest of the body, of silk or hair, as being of a more shining glossy colour, than the other materials, as usually the head of the fly is more bright than the body, and usually of a different colour from the body: Sometimes I make the body of the fly with a *Peacock's* feather, but that is only one sort of fly, whose colour nothing else that I could ever get would imitate, being the dun, red, golden, green fly I before mentioned, which I make thus: Take one strand of a *Peacock's* feather (or if that be not sufficient, then another) wrap it about the

hook,

hook, till the body be according to your mind; if your flie be of divers colours, and those lying longways from head to tail, then I take my Dubbing, and lay them on the hook long-ways, one colour by another (as they are mixt in the natural flie) from head to tail, then bind all on, and make it fast with silk of the most predominant colour; and this I conceive is a more artificial way than is practised by many Anglers, who use to make such a flie all of one colour, and bind it on with silk, so that it looks like a flie with round circles, but nothing as all resembles the flie it is intended for; the Head, Horns, Tail, are made as before. If that you may the better counterfeit all forts of flies, get furs of all sorts and colours you can possibly procure, as of Bears hair, Foxes, Cows, Hogs, Dogs, who, most their bodies have a fine soft hair or

fur,

[illegible] Moccado silks, Crewel, all dyed wooll of all colours, with feathers of Cocks, Capons, Hens, Peacocks, Mallards, Widgeons, Drakes, Partridges, the feathers under the Mallard, Teal or Widgeons wings, and about their tails, about a Cock or Capons neck and tail, of all colours, and generally of all birds, Kits, Hackles, &c. that you may make your exactly of the colour with the natural fly. And here I must give some cautions and directions, as for the artificial fly, and to put on to baits for angling on the ground.

Cautions for the use of the artificial fly.

When you angle with the artificial fly, you must always fish in a River not fully clouded, but some raine lately before, that discoloured it, or in a Moorish River discoloured by moore or bogs; or else in a dark cloudy day, when a gentle gale of wind moves the water; but if the wind be high,

yet

yet so as you may guide your tools with advantage, they will rise in the plain Deeps, and then and there you will commonly kill the best fish, but if the wind be little or none at all you must angle in the swift streams.

2. You must keep your artificial fly in continuall motion, though the day be dark, water muddy, and wind blow, or else the fish will discerne and refuse it.

3. If you angle in a River that is muddied by rain, or falling through moules or bogs, you must use a larger bodyed fly than ordinary, which argues that in clear Rivers the fly must be smaller, and this not being observed by some hindereth their sport, and be ye assured their want of success is to their want of the right fly, when perhaps they have it, but made too little.

4. If the water be clear and low, then use a small bodied fly with slender wings.

5. When the water beginneth to clear after rain, and is of a brownish colour, then a red or Orenge fly.

6. If the day be clear, then a light coloured fly, with slender body and wings.

7. In dark weather as well as dark waters your fly must be dark.

8. If the water be of a Whey colour or whitish, then use a black or brown fly, yet these six last Rules do not alwayes hold, though usually they do, or else I had omitted them.

9. Observe principally the belly of the fly, for that colour the fish observe most, as soon as they eye.

10. When you angle with an artificial fly, your line may be twice

twice the length of your rod, except the River be much cumbred with wood and trees.

11. For every sort of flie have three, one of a lighter colour, another fadder than the natural flie, and a third of the exact colour with the flie, to fute all waters and weathers as before.

12. I could never find (by any experience of mine own or other mans observation) that fish would freely and eagerly rise at the artificial flie in any slow muddy River; by muddy Rivers I mean such Rivers, whose bottom or ground is slime or mud, for such as are madded by rains (as I have already, and shall afterwards further shew) at some times, and seasons I would chuse to angle, even in standing waters or Sloughs I have known them (in a good warm day) to rise very well, but not so in slimy Rivers, either [illegible] in Cheshire

of Eels in the Fresh-pools, and others in Warwick-lake, Ore and Blackwater in Ulster; in the last, after many tryals I could never find (though in its best streams) almost any Sport, save at its influx into Lough Neagh; but there the worldling of the Lough makes it lively, and they will bite allmost from Noon Cattle season, even to admiration, yet sometimes they will sits in that River a little, but not comparable to what they will do in every little Lough, in any small gale of wind. And though I have often ruminated in my own thoughts to search out the true cause of this, yet I could never so fully satisfie my own judgment, so as to conclude any thing positively, yet have taken up these two ensuing Conjectures as most probable.

Two conjectures

1. I conceive the depth of the Lough might hinder the force

of the Sun beams from operating upon, or heating the mud, which in those Rivers (though deep, yet not so deep by much as the Loughs) I apprehend it doth, because in great droughts fish have but little in any River, but nothing at all in slimy Rivers, in regard the mud is not cooled by the constant and swift motion of the River, as in gravelly or sandy Rivers, where (in the season) they rise most freely, and bite most eagerly, save as before in droughts, notwithstanding at that season some sport may be had, (though not with the fly) whereas nothing at all will be done in muddy slow Rivers.

why fish rise not wel at the artificial flie in slimy rivers.

My second supposition was, Whether (according to that old received Axiom, *Assuetis familiarem vitæ*) the fish might not partake of the nature of the River, and which they are bred and live, as we see in men born in fenny, bog-

ry, low, moist grounds, and thick air, who ordinarily want that present quickness, vivacity and activity of body and mind, which persons born in dry, hilly, sandy soil and clear air, are usually endued withall: And so the fish participating of the nature of the muddy River, which are ever slow, (for if they were swift, the stream would cleanse them from all mud) are not so quick, lively and active, as those bred in swift, sandy or stony Rivers, and so coming to the fly with more deliberation, discern the same to be counterfeit, and forsake it; whereas on the contrary, in stony, sandy, swift Rivers (being more cold) the fish are more active, and so more hungry and eager, the stream and they keeping the fly in continual motion, they snap the same up without any pause, left so delicate a morsel escape them.

13. You must have a very quick eye, a nimble rod and hand, and strike with the rising of the fish, or he instantly finds his mistake, and putteth out the hook again: I could never (my eye-sight being weak) discern perfectly where my fly was, the wind and stream carrying it to and again, that the line was never any certain direction to guide to me, but if I saw any fish rise, I use to strike if I discerned it might be within the length of my line.

14. Be sure in casting that your fly fall first into the water, if the line fall first, it scareth the fish, therefore draw it back, and cast again, that the fly may fall first.

15. When you try how to fit your colour to the fly, wet your fur, hair, wool or Mocado, otherwise you will fail in your work, for though when they are dry they

strongly into the colour of the fie, for the water will alter much colours, and make them lighter or darker.

How to angle with the Cadbait.

The best way to angle with the *Cadbait*, is to fish with it on the top of the water as you do with the fie; it must stand upon the shank of the hook, as doth the artificial fie, (if it come into the heat of the hook, the fish will little or not at all value it, nor if you pull the blue gut out of it) and to make it keep that place, you must, when you fee on your hook, fasten a little hair or two under the silk, with the ends standing a very little out from under the silk, and pointing towards the line, and this will keep it from sliding back into the bent, and thus mixed is a most excellent bait for a *Trout*. You may imitate the *Cadbait*, by making the body of *Mohair*, the head black silk.

I might here name several sorts of flies, with the colours that are used to make them; but for the reasons before given, that their colours, vary in several rivers and soils, and also because though I name the colours, yet its not safe to chuse that colour by any description, except so largely performed as would be over large, and swell this small Piece beyond my intended conciseness; and I suppose the former directions (which are safe and short) if rightly observed, are full enough and sufficient for making and finding out all sorts of flies in all rivers. I shall only add, that the *Salmon* flies must be made with wings standing one behind the other, whether two or four; also he delights in the most gaudy and noble colours you can chuse; the wings I mean chiefly, if not altogether, with long tails and wings.

CHAP. IV.

of Angling at the ground.

Ground angling.

NOw we are come to the second sort of Angling, (*viz.*) Under the water, which if it be with the ground-line for the *Trout*, then you must not use any float at all, onely a Plumb of Lead, which I would with might be a small Bullet, the better to rowle on the ground, and it must also be lighter or heavier, as the stream runneth swift or slow, and you must place it about nine inches or a foot from the hook, the Lead must run upon the ground, and you must keep your line as streight as possible, yet by no means so as to raise the lead from the ground; your top must be very gentle, that the fish may more easily, and (to himself) insensibly run away with the bait, and not be scared with the stiff-

ſtiffneſſe of the rod; and if you make your top of Black-thorn and Whale-bone, as I before directed, it will conduce much to this purpoſe: Neither muſt you ſtrike ſo ſoon as you feel the fiſh bite, but ſlack your line (a little) that ſo he may more ſecurely ſwallow the bait, and hook himſelf, which he will ſometimes do, eſpecially if he be a good one, however the leaſt jerk hooks him, and indeed you can ſcarce ſtrike too eaſily. Your Tackle muſt be very fine and ſlender, and ſo you will have more ſport than if you had ſtrong lines, (which fright the Fiſh) but the ſlender line is eaſily broke with a ſmall jerk. The Morning and Evening are beſt for the ground-line for a *Trout* in clear weather and water, but in cloudy weather or muddy water, you may angle at ground all day.

2. You may alſo in the night angle

Night angling.

angle for the *Trout* with two great Garden worms, hanging as equally in length as you can place them on your hook; cast them from you as you would cast the fly, and draw them to you again upon the top of the water, and suffer them not to sink; therefore you must use no Lead this way of angling; you may hear the Fish rise, give some time for him to gorge your bait, as at the ground, then strike gently. If he will not take them at the top, adde some Lead, and try at the ground, as in the day time, when you feel him bite, order your sail as in day angling at the ground: Usually the best *Trouts* bite in the night, and will rise in the still Deeps, but not ordinarily in the stream.

Angling for the *Trout* with a *Minow*.

3. You may angle also with a *Minow* for the *Trout*, which you must put on your hook thus; First, put your hook through the very point

point of his lower Chap, and draw it quite through, then put your hook in at his mouth, and bring the point to his tail, then draw your line streight, and it will bring him into a round compass, and close his mouth that no water get in, which you must avoid, or you may suck up his mouth; Or you may (when you set on your hook) fasten some bristles under the silk, leaving the points above a straws breadth and half, or almost half an inch standing out towards the line, which will keep him from slipping back. You may also imitate the *Menow* as well as the fly, but it must be done by an Artist with the Needle.

You must also have a Swivel or Turn plated about a yard or more from your hook, you need no Lead on your line, you must continually draw your bait up the stream near the top of the water.

The use of the Swivel.

If

If you misse a *Trout* how to take her afterwards.

If you strike a large *Trout*, and she either break hook or line, or get off, then near to her hold (if you can discover it) or the place you strook her, fix a short stick in the water, and with your Knife loose a small piece of the rind, so as you may lay your line in it, and yet the barck be close enough to keep your line in that it slip not out, nor the stream carry it away; bait your hook with a Garden or Lob-worm (let your hook and line be very strong) let the bait hang a foot from the stick, then fasten the other end of your line to some stick or bough in the Bank, and within one hour you may be sure of her if all your tackle hold.

How to angle for the *Pike* with a *Trowle*, and several other wayes.

The next way of Angling is with a *Trowle* for the *Pike*, which is very delightful, you may buy your *Trowle* ready made, therefore I shall not trouble my self to describe it, onely let it have a winch

winch to wind it up withall. For this kind of fish your tackle must be strong, your Rod must not be very slender at the top, where you must place a small slender ring for your line to run through, let your line be silk at least two yards next the hook, and the rest of strong Shoomakers thred, your hook double, and strongly armed with wire for above a foot, then with a probe or needle you must draw the wire in at the fishes mouth and out at the tail, that so the hook may lie in the mouth of the fish, and both the poynts on either side; upon the shank of the hook fasten some lead very smooth, that it go into the fishes mouth and sink her with the head downward, as though she had been playing on the top of the water, and were returning to the bottom; your bait may be small *Eels*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, *Loch*, or a frog sometimes, your hook

thus

thus baited, you muſt tie the tail of the fiſh cloſe and faſt to the wire, or elſe with drawing to and again the fiſh will rend off the hook, or which I judge neareſt with a needle and ſtrong thred, ſtitch through the fiſh on either ſide the wire and tie it very faſt: all being thus fitted, caſt your Fiſh up and down in ſuch places as you know *Pikes* frequent, obſerving ſtill that he ſink ſome depth before you pull him up again. When the *Pike* commeth (if he be not ſunk deep) you may ſee the water move, or at leaſt you may feel him, then ſlack your line and give him length enough to run away to his hould, whether he will go directly, and there poucht, ever beginning (as you may obſerve) with the head ſwallowing that firſt, thus let him lie until you ſee the line move in the water, and then you may certainly conclude

he

he hath pouched your bait, and rangeth abroad for more, then with your troul wind up your line till you think you have it almoſt ſtreight, then with a ſmart jerk book him, and make your pleaſure to your content. Some uſe no Rod at all, but hold the line in links on their hand, uſing lead and float: others uſe a very great hook with the hook at the tail of the Fiſh, and when the *Pike* commeth then they ſtrike at the firſt pull, others uſe to put a ſtrong ſtring or thred in at the mouth of the baſe and out at one of the gills, and ſo over the head and in at the other gill, and ſo tie the bait to the hook, leaving a little length of the thred or ſtring betwixt the Fiſh and the hook, that ſo the *Pike* may turn the head of the bait the better to ſwallow it, & then as before, after ſome pauſe ſtrike. Some uſe to tie the bait-hook and line to a bladder or

bundle

bundle of flags or bull-rushes, fastning the line very gently in the cleft of a small stick, to hold the bait from sinking more then (its allowed length) half a yard, and the stick must be fastned to the bladder or flags, to which the line being tyed that it may easily unfold and run to its length, and so give the *Pike* liberty to run away with the bait, and by the bladder or flags recover their line again. You must observe this way to turn off your bait with the wind or stream, that they may carry it away, or some use (for more sport, if the *Pike* be a great one) to tie the same to the foot of a goose which the *Pike* (if large) will sometime pull under the water. Before I proceed to give you each sort of bait for every kind of Fish, give me leave to adde a caution or two, for the ground-line and Fishing, as I did for the natural and artificial

tificial flie, and then we ſhall go on.

There are two wayes of fiſhing for *Eels*, proper and peculiar to that fiſh alone; the firſt is termed by ſome, *Brogling for Eels*, which is thus, take a ſhort ſtrong Rod and exceeding ſtrong line, with a little compaſſed but ſtrong hook, which you muſt bait with a large well ſcoured Red-Worm, then place the end of the hook very eaſily in a cleft of a ſtick, that it may very eaſily ſlip out; with this ſtick and hook thus baited, ſearch for holes under Stones, Timber, Roots, or about Floud-gates, if there be a good *Eele*, give her time and ſhe will take it, but be ſure ſhe hath gorged it, and then you may conclude, if your tackling or hold fail not, ſhe is your own. Brogling for Eels.

The other way is called *Bobbing for Eels*, which is thus; Take the Bobbing for Eels.

dargeſt Garden-worms, waſh them well, and with a Needle run a very ſtrong thred or ſilk through them from end to end, take ſo many as that at laſt you may wrap them about a Board (for your hand will be too narrow) a dozen times at leaſt, then tye them faſt with the two ends of the thred or ſilk, that they may hang in ſo many long bouts or hanks, then faſten all to a ſtrong Cord, and ſomething more than a handful above the worms, faſten a plumb of lead, of about three quarters of a pound, and then make your Cord ſure to a long and ſtrong Pole; with theſe worms thus ordered you muſt fiſh in a muddy water, and you will feel the *Eeles* tugge ſtrongly at them; when you think they have ſwallowed them as far as they can, gently draw up your worms and *Eeles*, and when you have them near the top of the water, hoiſt them

them amain to land, and thus you may take three or four at once, and good ones if there be store.

1. When you angle at ground, keep your line as streight as possible, suffering none of it to lye in the water, because it hindereth the nimble jerk of the rod, but if (as sometimes it will happen) you cannot avoid, but some little will lie in the water, yet keep it in the stream above your float, by no meanes below it. Directions in angling at the ground.

2. When you angle at ground for small fish, put two hooks to your line fastned together thus; Lay the two hooks together, then draw the one shorter than the other by nine inches, this causeth the other end to over-reach as much as that is shorter at the hooks, then turn that end back to make a bought or boute, and with a Water knot (in which you must make both the links to fasten) tye

them ſo as both links may hang cloſe together, and not come out at both ends of the knot; upon that link which hangeth longeſt, faſten your Lead near a foot above the hook, put upon your hooks two different baits, and ſo you may try (with more eaſe and leſs time) what bait the fiſh love beſt: and alſo very often (as I have done) take two fiſh at once with one Rod: You have alſo by this experiment one bait for ſuch as feed cloſe upon the ground, as *Gudgeon, Flounder, &c.* and another for ſuch as feed a little higher, as *Roch, Dace, &c.*

3. Some uſe to lead their lines heavily, and to ſet their Cork about a foot or more from the end of the Rod, with a little Lead to buoy it up, and thus in violent ſwift ſtreams they avoid the offence of a flote, and yet perfectly diſcern the biting of the fiſh, and

ſo

ſo order themſelves accordingly, but this hath its inconvenience, (*viz.*) The lying of the line in the water.

4. Give all fiſh time to gorge the bait, and be not over haſty, except you angle with ſuch tender baits, as will not endure nibbling at, but muſt upon every touch be ſtruck at (as Sheeps-blond-flies, which are taken away at the firſt pull of the fiſh) and therefore enforce you at the firſt touch to try your fortune.

Now we are to ſpeak next of Baits, more particularly proper for every fiſh, wherein I ſhall obſerve this method, firſt to name the fiſh, then the baits, (according as my experience hath proved them) grateful to the fiſh, and to place them as near as I can in ſuch order as they come in ſeaſon, though many of them are in ſeaſon at one inſtant of time, and equally good.

I would not be understood, as if when a new hair cometh in, the old one were antiquated and useless; for I know the worm lasteth all the year, flie all Summer, one sort of Bob all Winter; the other under Cow-dung in June and July: but in the winter that sorts are found when others are not to

CHAP. V.

Of all sorts of Baits for each kind of Fish, and how to find and keep them.

Baits for the Salmon.

THe Salmon takes the artificial flie very well; but you must use a troule (as for the Pike) or he being a strong fish will hazard your line, except you give him length: this flie must be much larger than you use for other fish; the wings very long (two or four) behind

behind one another, with very long tails; his chiefest ground-bait a great Garden or Lob-worm.

2. The *Trout* takes all sorts of worms, especially *Brandlings*; all sorts of flies, *Menow*, young *Frogs*, *Marsh-worms*, *Dock-worms*, *Flag-worms*; all sorts of *Cadbait*, *Bob*, *Palmers*, *Caterpillers*, *Gentles*, *Wasps*, *Hornets*, *Dores*, *Bees*, *Grashoppers*, *Cankers* and *Bark-worms*; he is a ravenous greedy fish, and loveth a large bait at ground, and you must fit him accordingly.

3. The *Umber* is generally ta-

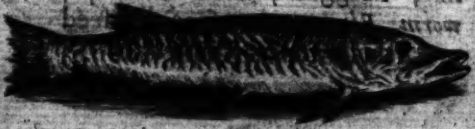
ken with the ſame baits as the *Trout*, he is an eager fiſh, biteth freely, and will riſe often at the ſame flie, if you prick him not.

The *Barbel* bites beſt at great red worms well ſcowered in Moſs, at Cheeſe and ſeveral ſorts of Paſtes, and *Gentles*.

4. *Carp* and *Tench* love the largeſt red worms, the *Tench* eſpecially if they ſmell much of *Tar*; to which end you may ſome ſmall time before you uſe them, take ſo many as you will uſe at that time, and put them by themſelves in a little *Tar*, but let them not lye long leſt it kill them; Paſte alſo of all ſorts made with ſtrong-ſented Oyles, *Tar*, Bread-grain boiled ſoft, Maggots, *Gentles*, *Marſh-worms*, *Flag-worms*, eſpecially feed much and often for theſe Fiſh.

5. The *Pike* taketh all ſorts of baits, (ſave the flie) *Gudgeon*, *Roches*,

ches, *Dorr*, *Loaches*, young Frogs in Summer: You may baite him thus; Fasten a strong line with a hook at the end of it to a Pole, which if you go circumspectly to work, he will permit you to put it over his head, and then you must by strength hoist him to land.



6. *Eeles*, take great red worms, Beef, Wasps, guts of Fowles and *Mewes*: Bait Night-hooks for him with small *Roches*, the hook must lye in the mouth of the Fish, as for the *Pike*; this way takes the greatest *Eeles*.

7. *Barbel*,

7. *Barbel*, Cheese, or Paste made of it with Soot, Maggots and red worms, feed much for this Fish.

8. The *Gudgeon*, *Ruff* and *Bleak* take the smallest red worms, *Cadbait*, *Gentles*, *Wasp*: to the *Bleak* takes the natural or artificial flie, especially in the Evening.

The *Ruff* taketh the same baits as the *Roach*, save that you must have lesser worms, he being a smaller Fish.

9. *Roch* and *Dace*, small worms, *Cadbait*, Flies, Bobs, Sheeps Mould, small white Snails, all sorts

of

of worms bred on herbs or trees, Paste, *Wasps*, *Gnats*, *Cherries* and *Lipberries*.

The *Bleak* is an eager Fish, and takes the same baits as the *Roch*, onely they must be less: You may angle for him with as many hooks on your line at once, as you can conveniently fasten on it.

10. *Chevin*, all sorts of earth worms, Bob, *Menow*, Flies of all sorts, *Caddis*, all sorts of worms bred on herbs and trees, especially *Oak-worms*, young *Frogs*, *Cherries*, *Wasps*, *Dores*, *Bees*, *Grashopper* at the top of the water, Cheese, grain, *Beetles*, a great brown Flie that lives on the *Oak* like a *Scarabee*, black Snails, their bellies slit that the white appear; he loveth a large bait, as a *Wasp*, *Colworm-worm*, and then a *Wasp* altogether.

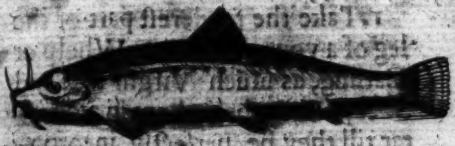
11. *Bream*, loveth red worms, especially those that are got at the root of a great Dock, it lyeth wrapped up in a knot of round Clue; Paste, *Flag-worms*, *Wasps*, green flies, *Butter-flies*, a *Grashopper* his legs cut off.

12. *Flounder*, *Shad*, *Swant*, *Thwait* and *Mullet*, love red worms of all sorts, *Wasps* and *Gentles*.

As for the *Menow*, *Louch*, *Bull-head* or *Millers-thumb*, being usually Childrens recreation, I once purposed to have omitted them wholly, but considering they often are baits for better fish, as *Trout*, *Pike*, *Eele*,

Eels, &c. Neither could this Discourse be general if they were omitted; and though I should wave mentioning them, yet I cannot forget them, who have so often vexed me with their unwelcome eagernesse; for the *Menow* will have a part in the play, if you come where he is, which is almost every where, you need not seek him; I use to find him oftner than I desire, onely deep still places be least frequents of any, and is not over curious in his baits; any thing will serve that he can swallow, and he will strain hard for what he cannot gorge; but chiefly loveth smallest red wormes, *Cadbait*, worms bred on herbs or grass, and *Wasps*.

The



The *Loach* and *Bullhead* are much of the ſame dyet, but their principall bait is ſmalleſt red worms.

Several ſorts of Paſtes.

Having ſpoken before of Paſtes, I ſhall now ſhew how you may make the ſame; and though there be

be as many kinds as men have fancies, yet I esteem these best.

1. Take the tendereſt part of the leg of a young Rabbet, Whelp or Catling, as much Virgin wax and Sheeps Suet, beat them in a Mortar till they be perfectly incorporated, then with a little clarified Honey temper them before the Fire into a Paſte.

2. Sheeps Kidney Suet, as much Cheeſe, fine Flower or Manchet, make it into a Paſte, ſoften it with clarifyed Honey.

3. Sheeps bloud, Cheeſe, fine Manchet, clarifyed Honey, make all into a Paſte.

4. Cherries, Sheeps bloud, Saffron, and fine Manchet, make all into a Paſte.

You may adde to any Paſte *Oculus Indis*, *Aſſa fœtida*, Oyle of *Pelipody* of the *Oak*, of *Lignum vitæ*, of *Ivie*, or the gum of *Ivie* diſſolved: I judge there is vertue

in

in these Cyders, and Cans especially; which I would advise to all Parties I make: see also an little Flax to keep the Paste that is wash off the hooks

Chap. VI.

How to keep your Baits.

A Paste will keep very long if you put Virgin wax and clarified Honey into it, and stick well on the hook: if you beat Cotton Wool in your Flax in the very making your Paste, and work your worms into very good long Moss, whether white, red or grey, (I mean not such as is Wall moss) and cleanse it from all earth and filth, wring it very dry, then put your Moss and worms into an earthen Pot, cover it close that they cannot come out, set it in a cool place in Summer, and in Winter

in a warm place, that the Frost kill them not; every third day in Summer change your Moss; once in the week in Winter; the longer you keep them before you use them, the better: Clean scowering your worms makes them clearer, redder, tougher, and to live long on the hook, and to keep colour, and therefore more desireable to the Fish: A little *Sal-Armoniack* put to them will much further your desire, and scower them in a short time: Or you may put them all night in water, and they will scower themselves, but will be weak, but a few hours in good Moss will recover them. But left your worms die, you may feed them with crums of Bread and Milk, or fine Flowre and Milk, or the Yelk of an Egge, and sweet Cream congulated over the Fire, give them a little and often, sometimes also put to them some

cast out of a Grave, the nearer the Grave the better, I mean the shorter time the party hath been buried, you will find the fish will exceedingly covet them about this earth, by means you may gather what gentleman, which Sr. D. in his Secrets of Angling, calleth Gum of life.

You must keep all other sorts of worms with the leaves of such trees and herbs, on which they are bred; changing the leaves every two day, and put in fresh for the old ones. The Baites you keep them in must have a few small holes to let in the air. Keep Gentles or Maggots with clean fine Beefs Livers or Sheeps dissolv'd or scowred them in blood, or Bran which is better; you may breed them by putting a Beefs Liver full of holes, hang it in the Sun in Summer time, in an old coarse Basket or Swaddling Band with Chips and Bran under it, and

which they will drop, and cleanse themselves in it.

Cadbait. 5. *Cadbait* cannot endure the wind and cold, therefore keep them in a thick woollen Bag, with some Gravel amongst them, wet them once a day at least, if in the house, but often in the hot weather; when you cleanse them forth, fill the bag full of water, then bind the mouth close, that they drop not out, and so let the water run from them; I have thus kept them three weeks: Or you may put them into an earthen Pot full of water, with some Gravel in the bottom, and take them forth into your bag as you use them.

Spawn of fish. 6. The spawn of some Fish is a good bait, to be used at such time as that Fish spawneth, some days before they spawn they will bite eagerly; if you take one that is full bellied, take out the spawn, boil it so hard as to stick on your hook,

bodily, and to use it, or not bobbit at all, the spawn of *Salmon* is bait of all sorts of spawn

I have observed, that the *Trout*, *Rock*, *Dace* bite much better to the *Oak-worm* (or any worm bred on herbs or trees) especially if you angle with the same (when they shew themselves) at the top of the water, (as with the natural fly) then if you use it under; for I have observed, that when a gale of wind shaketh the trees, the worms fall into the water, and presently rise and skate on the top, where I have seen the Fish rise at them as flies, which taught me this experience, and indeed they sink not till soft and beaten by the stream, and so they dye and lose their colour, and then the Fish (as you may see by your own on your hook) do not much esteem them. The chiefest way to use the *Oak-worm*.

8. There are two, some say three, sorts of *Cadbait*; the one Cadbait his kinds.

bred under stones, that live & follow in shallow Rivers or small Brooks, in a very fine gravelly cafe or husk, these are yellow when ripe; the other in old Pits, Ponds or slow running Rivers or Ditches, in cafes or husks of Straw, sticks or Rushes, these are green when ripe; both are excellent for a *Trout*, used as before is directed, and for most sorts of small Fish. The green sort, which is bred in Pits, Ponds or Ditches, may be found in *March* before the other yellow ones come in; the other yellow ones come in season with *May* or the end of *April*, and go out in *July*; a second sort, but smaller, come in again in *August*.

Bobs, two sorts.

9. Yellow Bobs are also of two sorts, the one bred in mellow light soils, and gathered after the Plough when the Land is first broken up from grazing, and are in season in the Winter till *March*;

the

the other sort is bred under Cow-dung, hath a red head, and these are in season in the Summer only: scour them in Bran, or dry Moss, or Meal.

10. Under the bark of an Oak, Ash, Alder, and Birch especially, if they lie a year or more after they are fallen, you may find a great white Worm, with a brown head, something relembling a *Dore-Bee* or *Hornet-worm*; this is in season all the year, especially from *September* until *June*, or mid-*May*, the Birds covet this bait above any, save *Pie* and *Cuckow*: you may also find this Worm in the body of a rotted Alder, if you break it with an Ax or Beetle, but be careful only to shake the tree in pieces with hewing, and crush not the Worm: you may also find him under the bark of the stump of a tree, if decayed. Barke wormes.

11. Dry your *Wasps*, *Dores*, or *Bees* How to use Wasps.

...upon a Wild-flowre, or in a Green cocked after haymaking, finely burn, and anoynted them, you may lay them one upon boards or trays, and cover them with another to supported, as above to shade them, or else clap two Cakes together, this way they will keep long, and fish on your hook well: If you hold them hard, they grow black in a few days.

Sheeps blood, how to use it.

...Dry your Sheeps blood in the air upon a dry board, till it become a pretty hard lump, then cut into small pieces for your use.

How to order Graine.

...When you use Graine, keep it soft, and smooth with the ordinary oyl, which is the best, and then if you will, you may dip the Graine in Honey and Milk, or other strong scented Oyls, as Polypody, Spike, Ivy, Turpentine, or Nature, which maketh nothing in vain, hath given the Fish Nostrils, and that they can smell, abundantly

able;

ables; and, I am perswaded, are more guided by the sense of smelling than sight; for sometimes they will come to the float, if any Meat be upon it, smell at it and go away. We see also that strong scents draw them together; as, put Grains, Worms, or Snails in a bottle of Hay tied pretty close, and you will, if you pluck it out suddenly, sometimes draw up *Eeles* in it. But I never yet made trial of any of these Oyls; for, when I had the Oyls, I wanted time to try them; or when I had time, I wanted the Oyls: but I recommend them to tryal of others, and do purpose (God willing) to prove their virtue my self; especially that Ointment so highly commended by *I. Dy* in his *Secrets of Angling*.

14. When you see the *Ant-flyes* in greatest plenty, go to the *Ant-hills* where they breed, take

Ant-flyes.

take a great handful of the earth, with as much of the roots of the grass that groweth on those Hills, put all into a large glass bottle, then gather a pottle full of the blackest *Ant-flyes* unbruised, put them into the bottle (or into a firkin, if you would keep them long) first washed with Honey, or Water and Honey; *Roach* and *Dace* will bite at these Flyes under water near the ground.

Bobs after the plow.

15. When you gather *Bobs* after the Plough, put them into a Firkin with sufficient of the soyle they were bred in, to preserve them, stop the vessel exceeding close, or all will spoyl, set in where neither wind nor frost may offend them, and they will keep all winter for your use.

To breed and keep Gentles.

16. At the later end of *September*, take some dead Carrion that hath some Maggots bred in it that begin to creep, bury all deep in the

the ground, that the frost kill them not, and they will serve in *March* or *April* following to use.

17. To find the *Flag-worm* do thus, go to an old pond or pit where there are store of Flags, or (as some call them) Sedges, pull some up by the roots, then shake those roots in the water, till all the mud and dirt be washed away from them, then amongst the small strings or fibres that grow to the roots, you will find little husks or cases of a reddish or yellowish, and some of other colours, open these carefully with a pin, and you will find in them a little small Worm, white as a *Gentle*, but longer and slenderer; this is an excellent bait for *Tench*, *Bream*, especially *Carp*: if you pull the Flags in funder, and cut open the round stalk, you will also finde a Worm like the former in the husks, but tougher, and in that respect better. To find the Flag-worm.

CHAP.

Chap. VII.

Of several haunts or resorts of Fishes, and in what Rivers or places of them they are most usually found.

THis part of our Discourse being a discovery of the several places or Rivers each kind of fish doth most haunt, or covet, and in which they are ordinarily found: The several sorts of Rivers, Streams, Soyls and Waters they most frequent, is a matter (in this undervaluable Art) of no small importance, for if you come with baits for the *Trout* or *Umber*, and Angle for them in slow muddy Rivers or places, you will have little (if any) sport at all: and to seek for *Carp* or *Tench* in stony swift Rivers, is equally preposterous; and though I know that some

some times you may meet with fish in such rivers and places, as they do not usually frequent (for no general rule but admits of particular exceptions) yet the exact knowledge of what rivers or soyls, or what pars of the river (for some rivers have swift gravelly streams, and also slow, deep, muddy places) such or such sorts of fish do most frequent, will exceedingly adapt you, to know what rivers, or what part of them are most fit for your baits, or what baits suit best with each river, and the fish in the same.

The *Salmon* loveth large swift rivers, where it ebbeth and floweth, and there they are found in greatest numbers; nevertheless I have known them to be found in lesser rivers high up in the Country, yet chiefly in the later end of the year, when they come thither to spawn, he chuseth the most swift

swift and violent streams, (or rather Cataracts) and in *England* the cleerest gravelly rivers usually with rocks or weeds, but in *Ireland* I do not know any river (I mean high in the Country) that hath such plenty of them, as the black water by *Charlemont*, and the broad water by *Shanis* Castle, both which have their heads in great boggs, and are of a dark muddy colour, and very few (comparatively) in the upper bank though cleaner and swifter than they.

2. The *Trout* loveth small purling Brooks, or Rivers that are very swift, and run upon stones or gravel; he feedeth whilest strong in the swiftest streams behind a stone, logge, or some small bank that shooteth into the river, which the streams beareth upon, and there he lieth watching for what cometh down the stream, and suddenly

deply catcheth it up; his hold is usually in the deep, under a hollow place of the bank, or a stone that lieth hollow, which he loveth exceedingly, and sometimes, but not so usually he is found amongst weeds.

3. The *Pearch* loveth a gentle stream of a reasonable depth, (seldom shallow) close by a hollow Bank, and though these three sorts of fish covet clear and swift Rivers, green weeds and stony gravel, yet they are sometimes found (but not in such plenty and goodness) in slow muddy Rivers.

4. *Carp*, *Tench* and *Bele* seek mud and still waters; *Beles* under roots or stones, a *Carp* chuseth the deepest and stillest place of Pond or River, so doth the *Tench*, and also green weeds, which he loveth exceedingly: Greatest *Beles* love as before, but the smaller

ones

ones are found in all sorts of Rivers and soils.

5. *Pike*, *Bream* and *Chub*, chuse Sand or Clay; the *Barbe* a gentle stream and broadest part of the River; the *Pike* still Pools full of Frie, and shelters himself (the better to surprise his prey unawares) amongst Bull-rushes, water-docks, or under Bushes; the *Chub* loves the same ground, (is more rarely found without some rode to shade and cover him) large Rivers and streams.

6. *Barbel*, *Dace*, *Roff*, seek Gravel and Sand more than the *Bream*, and the deepest parts of the River, where shady trees are more grateful to them, than to the *Chub* or *Chevin*.

7. The *Umber* desires Marle, Clay, clear waters, swift streams, far from the Sea, (for I never saw any taken near it) and the greatest plenty of them that I know of are found

found in the mountainous parts of *Derby-shire*, *Staffford-shire*, *Dove-stone*, *Derwent*, &c.

8. *Gudgeon* desires sandy, gravelly, gentle streams, and smaller Rivers; but I have known them taken in great abundance in *Trent* in *Derby-shire*, where it is very large, but conceive them to be in greater plenty nearer the head of that River about or above *Heywood*: I can say the same of other Rivers, and therefore conceive they love smaller Rivers rather than the large, or the small Brooks; for I never found them in so great plenty in Brooks, as small Rivers: He bites best in the Spring till he spawns, and little after till *Wasp* time.

9. *Shad*, *Thwait*, *Peal*, *Mullet*, *Sawny* and *Flounder*, love chiefly to be in or near the salrish waters, where it ebbeth and floweth: I have known the *Flounder* taken (in

good places) in fresh Rivers they covet Sand and Gravel, deep gentle streams near the Bank, or at the end of a stream in a deep still place: Though these rules may and do hold good in the general, yet I have found them admit of particular exceptions; but every mans habitation inggeeth him to one or (usually at most to) two Rivers, his own experience will quickly inform him of the nature of the same, and the fish in them. I would perswade all that love angling, and desire to be compleat Anglers, to spend some time in all sorts of Waters, Ponds, Rivers, swift and slow, stony, gravelly, muddy and slimy; and to observe all the differences in the nature of the fish, the waters and baits, and by this means he will be able to take fish where ever he angleth; otherwise (through want of experience) he will be like the man that

that could read in no book but his own; besides, a man thus occasioned, desires drawing him from home, must often stand as an idle spectator, whilst others kill fish, but he none, and by loss the name of a complete Angler, how excellent soever he be at his own known River.

Furthermore, you must understand, that as some fish covet one soil more than another, so they differ in their choice of places, in every season: some keep all Summer long near the top, some never leave the bottom; for the former sort you may angle with a Quill or small float near the top, with a fly or any such worm, bred on herbs or trees, or such a fly as the top-flies for you will all Summer long find out the tail of every Willow, Alder, Wood-gate, Arches of Bridges, or the more shallow parts of the River, using strong Hairs, or

gentle ſtream, except *Carp*, and *Tench*, and *Eels*, in Winter all flye into the deep ſtill places: Where it ebbeth and floweth they will ſometimes bite beſt, in the ebbe moſt uſually, ſometimes when it floweth, rarely at full water near the Arches of Bridges, Wiers, Floud-gates.

CHAP. VIII.

What times are unſeaſonable to angle in.

When unſeaſonable to angle.

THere being a time for all things, in which with eaſe and facility the ſame may be accompliſhed, and moſt difficult, if not impoſſible, at another; The skill and knowledge how to chuſe the beſt ſeaſon to angle, and how to avoid the contrary, come next to be handled; which I ſhall do firſt Negatively, *viz.* What times are

unſ

unfit to angle; and these Affirmatively, which are the best seasons.

1. When the earth is parched with a great drought, so that the Rivers run with a much less current than is usual, its to no purpose to angle; and indeed the heat of the day in Summer (except cooled by winds, and shaddowed with Clouds, though there be no drought) you will find very little sport, especially in muddy, or very shallow and clear Rivers.

2. In cold, frosty, snowy weather, I know the fish must eat in all seasons, and that a man may kill fish when he must first break the Ice; yet I conceive the sport is not much worth pursuing, the extreme cold taking away the delight; besides, the indangering health (if not life) by those colds, which at least cause Rhumes and Coughs: Wherefore I leave Win-

reason that angling to such strange fearful bodies, whose extraordinary delight in angling, or those whose necessity inforceth them to seek prey by their reverention [illegible] such unfashionable times.

When there happeneth any sudden frost, all that day after the fish will not bite freely and kindly, except in the evening, and then the same prove very pleasant.

4. If the wind be extream high, so that you cannot guide your tools to advantage.

5. When Shepherds or Country-men wash their Sheep, though whilest they are washing (I mean the first time only) the fish will bite exceedingly well, I suppose the fish that falleth from the Sheep doth draw them (as your baiting a place) together, and then they to glut themselves, that all the whole washing time they bite

and they have digested their fulness, they will not take any artificial baits.

6. Sharp, bitter, nipping winds, which usually blow out of the North or East especially, blast your recreation; but this is rather the season than the wind, though I also judge those winds have a secret maligne quality to hinder the recreation.

7. After any sort of fish have spawned they will not bite any thing to purpose, until they have recovered their strength and former appetite.

8. When any clouds arise that will certainly bring a showre or storm (though in the midst of Summer) they will not bite; I have observed that though the fish bite most eagerly, and to your hearts content, yet upon the first appearing of any clouds, that will certainly bring rain (though) my

own judgment could not then apprehend, or in the least conjecture, that a storm was arising) they have immediately left off biting; and that hath been all that hath given me to understand that a showre was coming, and that it was Prudence to seek shelter against the same.

CHAP. IX.

The best times and seasons to angle.

When it is best to angle.

WE now come to the affirmative part, which is the best season to angle, that is before we discovered when it would be lost labour to seek recreation; so now you may learn to improve opportunity (when it offers it self) to best advantage.

1. Calm, clear (or which is better)

coole

coole cloudy weather in Summer, the wind blowing gently, ſo as you may guide your tools with eaſe; in the hotteſt months the cooler the better.

2. When the floods have carried away all the filth that the rain had waſhed from the higher grounds into the river, and that the river keepeth his uſual bounds, and looketh of a Whay colour.

3. When a ſudden violent ſhower hath a little mudded and raiſed the river; then if you go forth in, or immediately after ſuch a ſhowre, and angle in the ſtream at the ground (with a red worm chiefly) if there be ſtore of fiſh in the river, you will have ſport to your own deſire.

4. A little before any fiſh ſpawn (your own obſervation will inform you of the time by the fulneſs of their bellies) they come into the gravelly, ſandy ſoards to rub and

oſen

loosen their bellies, and then they bite very freely.

5. When Rivers after rain do rise, yet so as that they keep within their banks, in swift rivers the violence of the stream forceth the fish to seek shelter and quiet ease, in the little and milder currents of small Brooks, where they fall into larger Rivers, and behind the ends of Bridges that are longer than the breadth of the River, making a low vacancy, where the Bridge defends a small spot of ground from the violence of the stream, or in any low place near the rivers side, where the fish may lie at rest and secure from the disturbance of the rapid stream; in such a place (being not very deep) and at such a time, you will find sport, my self have ever found it equal to the best season.

6. Early in the morning from (*Carp* and *Tench* before) Sun rising,

sings until eight of the clock, and from four after noon till night; *Carp* and *Tench*, from Sun set till six in the night in the hot months.

7. In *March*, beginning of *April*, latter end of *September*, and all winter fish him best in the warmth of the day, no winds stirring, the air clear; in Summer months, morning and evening is best, or cool cloudy weather; if you can find shelter, no matter how high the wind be.

8. Fish rise best at the flye after a shower that hath not muddied the water, yet hath beaten the Grass and Flyes into the Rivers, you may in such a shower observe them rise much if you will endure the rain; also the best months for the flye are *March*, *April*, *May*, part of *June*; in the cooler months, in the warmest time of the day; in warmer weather, about nine in the morning, three after noon, if any

any gentle gale blow; sometimes in a warm evening, when the gnats play much.

Also after the River is cleared from a flood they rise exceeding well, I conceive they were glutted with ground baits, and now covet the fly, having wanted it a time.

1. A *Trout* bites best in a muddy rising water, in dark, cloudy, windy weather, early in the morning, from half an hour after eight till ten, and in the afternoon, from three, till after four, and sometimes in the evening, but nine in the morning, and three afternoon are his chiefest and most constant hours of biting at ground or fly, as the water suits either; *March*, *April*, *May*, and part of *June* are his chiefest months, though he bites well in *July*, *August*, and *September*. After a showre in the evening he riseth well at gnats.

2. *Salmon*, three afternoon, chiefly

chiefly in *May*, *June*, *July*, *August*, a clear water and some wind, and he biteth best when the wind bloweth against the stream, and near the Sea.

3. *Carp* and *Tench*, morning and evening very early and late, *June*, *July*, and *August*, or indeed in the night.

4. A *Chevin*, from Sun rising or earlier (at Snails especially, for in the heat of the day he careth not for them) in *June* and *July*, till about eight; again at three after noon at ground or fly; and his chief fly which he most delights in, is a great *Moth*, with a very great head, not unlike to an Owl, with whitish wings and yellowish body (you may find them flying abroad in Summer evenings in Gardens) some wind stirring, large Rivers chiefly, streams or shade, he will take a small *Lamprey* or *Sea-serpent*, an *Eele-brood*, either of

of them about 3 hours bright.

5. *Pike* bites best about three Afternoon, in a clear water, a gentle gale; *July, August, September, October.*

6. A *Bream* from about Sun-rising till eight in a muddy water, a good gale of wind; and in Ponds the higher the wind, and where the waves are highest, and nearer the middle of the Pond, the better; end of *May, June, July* (especially) and *August.*

7. *Roch* and *Dace* all day long, best at the top, at flie or *Gentle worm* principally, and at all other worms bred on herbs or trees, *Palmers, Caterpillers, &c.* in plain Rivers or Ponds, under Water-dock-leaves, under shady trees.

8. *Gudgeon, April,* and till he have spawned in *May,* and little after that till *Winter* time, and then to the end of the year all day long.

9. *Flounder* all day in *April, May, June, July.*

CHAP.

Chap. X.

General Observations.

1. LEt the Anglers Apparel be of sad dark colours, as sad gray's, tawny, purple hair or musk colour.

2. Use Shoomakers wax to your silk or thred, with which you make or mend either rod or line; it holds more firmly, and sticketh better than any other.

3. Into such places as you use to angle in, once a week at least cast in all sorts of Corn boyled soft, grains washed in blood, blood dryed and cut into pieces, Snails, worms chop small, pieces of fowle or beasts guts, beasts Livers, for *Carp* and *Breme* you cannot feed too often, or too much; this course draweth the fish to the place you desire: And to keep them together, cast about twenty grains

grains of ground Malt at a time, now and then as you angle, and indeed all sorts of baits are good to cast in, specially whilest you are angling with that baite, principally *Cadbait*, *Gentles* and *Wasps*, and you will find they will snap up yours more eagerly, and with less suspicion, but by no means when you angle in a stream cast them in at your hook, but something above where you angle, lest the stream carry them beyond your hook, and so instead of drawing them to you, you draw them from you.

4. Destroy all beasts or birds that devour the fish or their spawn, and endeavour (whether in Authority or not) to see all Statutes put in execution, against such as use unlawful Nets or means to take fish, especially barre netting and Nightshoaking.

5. Get your rods and tops without

but knots, they are dangerous for breaking.

6. Keep your rod dry, left it rot; and not near the fire, left it grow brittle.

7. In drought wet your rod a little before you begin to angle.

8. *Lob worms*, *Dew worms*, and great Garden worms all one.

9. When you angle at ground, or with the natural flie, your line muſt not exceed the length of your rod. For the *Trout* at ground it muſt be ſhorter, and in ſome caſes not half the length, as in ſmall Brooks or woody Rivers, either at ground or with the natural flie.

10. When you have hooked a good fiſh, have an eſpecial care to keep your rod bent, left he run to the end of the line, and break your hook or his hold.

11. Such tops or ſtocks as you get, muſt not be uſed till fully ſeaſoned; which with will not be in

one year and a quarter, but I like them better if kept till they be two years old.

12. The first fish you take cut up his belly, and you may then see his stomach, it is known by its largeness and place, lying from the Gills to the small guts, take it out very tenderly, (if you bruise it your labour and design are lost) and with a sharp Knife cut it open without bruising, and then you may find his food in it, and thereby discover what bait the fish at that instant takes best, flies or ground baits, and so fit them accordingly.

13. Fish are frighted with any the least sight or motion, therefore by all means keep out of sight, either by sheltering your self behind some bush or tree, or by standing so far off the Rivers side, that you can see nothing but your line or float; to effect this, a long rod or

ground, and a long line with the artificial fly may be of use to you. And here I meet with two different opinions and practises, some always cast their fly and bait up the water, and so they fly nothing offendeth to the fishes sight but the line: others fall down the River, and so suppose (the rod and line being long) the quantity of water takes away, or at least lessens the fishes sight; but the other affirm, that rod and line, and perhaps your self are seen also. In this difference of opinions I shall only say, in small Brooks you may angle upwards, or else in great Rivers you must wade, as I have known some, who thereby got the Staggers, and I would not willingly counsel you to purchase pleasure at so dear a rate; besides, casting up the River you cannot keep your line out of the water, which we noted for a fault before, and they that use this

way confess, that if in casting your flie, the line fall into the water before it, the flie were better uncast, because it frights the fish; then certainly it must do it this way, whether the flie fall first or not; the line must first come to the fish or fall on him, which undoubtedly will fright him: Therefore my opinion is, that you angle down the River, for the other way you traverse twice so much, and beat not so much ground as downwards.

14. Keep the Sun (and Moon, if night) before you, if your eyes will endure it, (which I much question) at least be sure to have those Planets on your side, for if they be on your back, your rod will with its shadow offend much, and the fish see further and clearer, when they look towards those Lights, then the contrary; as you may experiment thus, in a dark night if a man come betwixt you and any

light, you see him clearly, but not at all if the light come betwixt you and him.

15. When you angle for the *Trout*, you need not make above three or four tryals in one place, either with fly or ground-bait; for he will then either take it, or make an offer, or not stir at all, and so you lose time to stay there any longer.

Pearch bites exceeding well at all sorts of Earth-worms, if well scowered, especially *Lob-worms* and *Brandlings*, *Bobs*, *Oak-worms*, *Gentles*, *Cadbait*, *Wasps*, *Dores*, *Me-*

new *Colwort-worm*, and ofrenest almost any bait save the fly.

He bites well all day long in seasonable weather, but chiefly from eight in the morning till about ten, and from a little before three afternoon till almost five.

16. A *Chevin* loveth to have several flies, and of divers sorts, on the hook at once, and several baits also at once on the hook; as a *Wasp* and *Colwort-worm*, or an old *Wasp* and young *Dore*, or *Humble* when his wings and legs are grown forth, or a flie and *Cad-worm* or *Oak-worm*.

17. Take for a *Trout* two *Lob-worms* well scowered, cut them into two equal halfs, put them on your hook; this is an excellent bait.

In a muddy water a *Trout* will not take a *Cadbait*; you must therefore only use it in clear waters.

If you desire to angle in a very swift stream, and have your bait rest in one place, and yet not overburthen your line with Lead, take a stone bow or small Pistoll Bullet, make a hole through it, wider at each side than in the middle; yet so open in every place, as that the line may easily pass through it without any stop; place a very small piece of Lead on your line, that may keep this Bullet from falling nearer the hook than that piece of Lead, and if your float be made large enough to bear above water against the force of the stream, the fish will, when they bite, run away with the bait as securely, as if there were no more weight upon your line, than the little piece of Lead, because the hole in the Bullet gives passage to the line, as if it were not there.

18. When Cattle in Summer

come into the Foards, their dung draweth the fish unto the lower end of the Foard; at such a time angle for a *Chevin* with baits fit for him, and you will have sport.

19. Before you set your hook to your line, arme the line by turning the Silk five or six times about the link, and so with the same hair set on your hook; this preserves your lines, that your hook cut it not in sunder, and also that it will not, when you use the cast flie, snap off so easily, which it is very subject to do.

20. In very wet seasons *Trouts* leave the rivers and larger Brooks, and flee into such little Brooks as scarce run at all in dry Summers.

21. To all sorts of Pastes adde Flax, Cotton or Woole, to keep the Paste from falling off your hook.

22. Deny not part of what your endea-

endeavours ſhall purchaſe unto any ſick or indigent perſons, but willingly diſtribute a part of your purchaſe to thoſe who may deſire a ſhare.

23. Make not a profeſſion of any recreation, leſt your immoderate love to the ſame bring a croſs wiſh with it [redacted].

FINIS.

You may be moſt compleatly furniſhed with all manner of fiſhing tackling at Mr. Fletchers, *near St.* Gregories *Church by the weſt end of* Pauls; *or at Mr.* Brandons, *near to the Swan in* Golden-lane; *or at Mr.* Kirbies *in* Harp Alley *in* Shoolane, *who is a moſt choice Hook-maker.*

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His hours.
His time of biting.

F

Fly, what fish it is best to bait with.
How to find their time.
Fly most artificial to make.
How best to use it.

G

H

I

M